

[6 March, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) if so, by when the airport is going to be completed;

(c) whether all formalities relating to land acquisition have been sorted out and the Central Government's clearance has been obtained; and

(d) the total period of the project and the approximate amount to be incurred on this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) The project cost and its period of implementation are under discussion. The project is in advanced stage of getting 'in-principle' approval of the Government.

Revamping of DGCA

713. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether, despite the boom in Indian civil aviation sector, there has been no commensurate efforts to strengthen the DGCA set-up;

(b) whether the Kaw Committee instituted in 2005 had called for strengthening the manpower base of DGCA in every department;

(c) whether Government feel that the creation of an Airport Economic Regulatory Authority is expected to lessen the burden on DGCA's functions; and

(d) whether Government are examining the working models of airport regulators in the US and the European Union for possible revamping of DGCA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir. The functions of Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and Airport Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA) are different. While DGCA is mainly a safety regulators, the proposed AERA will primarily regulate the commercial activities and policies for levying of user charges by airport operators.

(d) As mentioned in part (C) the role of airport regulator is distinct from that of DGCA.